Archie ADVENTURE SERIES

NO. 4 APRIL

$1.00

THE ADVENTURES OF BAYOU BILLY™

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

LAURIE WEST

AMANDA CONNER

Archie Salutes "ARTIST OF THE MONTH" AMANDA CONNER

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BROADSIDE WAS BEST MAN! I DIED IN LEBANON TRYING TO RESCUE OUR HOSTAGES! HE USED C.P.R. TO SAVE MY LIFE, BRING ME BACK! I OWE HIM...!
BILLY'S GONE AN' TIED THE KNOT!
THERE GO OUR WEEK-END POKER GAMES!
YUP!

IT'S NOT FAIR, LAURIE! I MET BILLY FIRST--WHEN HE BLEW A TRANSMISSION!
ALEXANDRA! IT'S NOT LIKE YOU TO HARBOR A GRUDGE!

JUST KIDDING, SIS!
ANY CAR TROUBLE, COME SEE ME! ON THE HOUSE!
MY BABY SISTER, THE GREASE MONKEY!
YOU'RE ON, GREASE!

I USED A G.I. LOAN TO BUY A HOUSE AND THREW MYSELF INTO MY WORK...
BAM! BAM!
BAYOU BILLY NEVER MISSES!

THEY SAY HE'S STRAIGHT OUTTA THE DELTA FORCE!
SIGH TOO BAD HE'S ALREADY MARRIED!
KA-BAM! BAM!

...AND LOVED LAURIE WITH ALL MY HEART AND SOUL!
OOHH, I LIKE IT WHEN YOU HOLD ME CLOSE!
THAT'S 'CAUSE I'M SO AFRAID OF LOSIN' YOU, CHERIE!

THEN ONE DAY, I SAW A HEADLINE THAT MADE MY BLOOD RUN COLD AS ICE!

The Crime

ROCK GORDON RELEASED FROM PRISON

SON OF MUNITIONS MAGNATE

ROCK GORDON WITH F. GILES GORDON

FBI INVESTIGAT GORDON LINK TO ORGANIZED CRIM

IN DELTA FORCE, I HAD ROCK GORDON COURT-MARTIALED!

HE SWORE TO GET EVEN!

SUGAR, WE'RE SELLIN' THE HOUSE, GETTIN' OUTTA TOWN! FAST!

BUT WHY, BILLY? I THOUGHT YOU LOVED IT HERE, LOVED YOUR WORK?!

SHE WAS STUBBORN, HAD PUT DOWN ROOTS, DIDN'T UNDERSTAND!

I DO! IT'S NOT ME! I'M WORRIED ABOUT YOU!

I'M A BIG GIRL, AND BIG GIRLS CAN TAKE CARE OF THEMSELVES, THANK YOU!

NOW, GIVE ME YOUR KEYS! YOU'RE BLOCKING ME IN!

I'M LATE FOR MY DOCTOR'S APPOINTMENT!

PLINK!

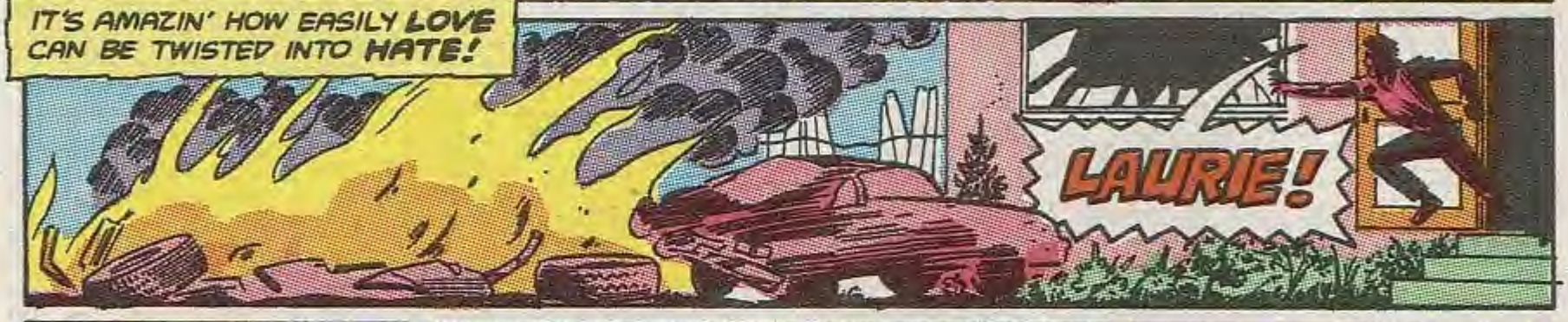
IF YOU'RE LUCKY, YOU MIGHT BE A DADDY SOON!

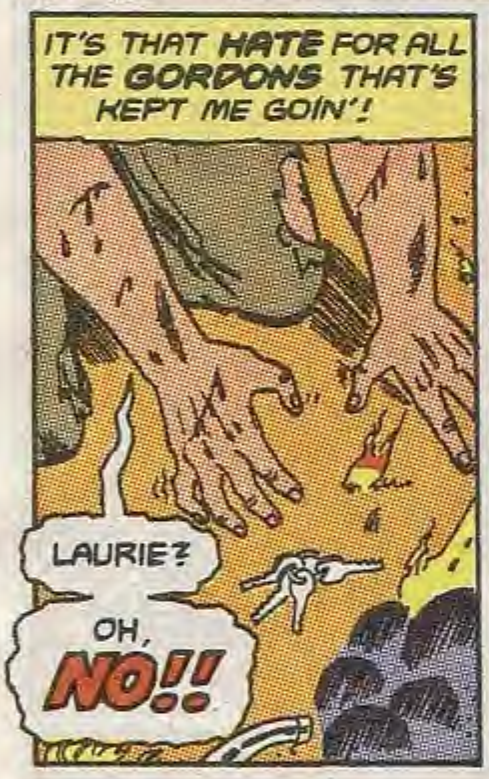
THAT WAS THE LAST TIME I SAW HER!

DIDN'T EVEN GET A KISS GOODBYE!

KA-KLICK

THE BOMB WAS MEANT FOR ME!
BLAH-DA BOOOOOM!!!


IT'S AMAZIN' HOW EASILY LOVE CAN BE TWISTED INTO HATE!
LAURIE!


IT'S THAT HATE FOR ALL THE GORDONS THAT'S KEPT ME GOIN'!
LAURIE?
OH, NO!!

:SOB: L-LAURIE...!!

AFTER I PULLED MYSELF TOGETHER, THE FIRST THING I DID WAS RESIGN FROM THE FORCE!
SURE YOU WANNA DO THIS, BILLY?
YES, CAP'N! I CAN WORK WITH LESS HASSLES... AS A BOUNTY HUNTER!

I'LL GET 'EM, DARLIN'!
THE WHOLE STINKIN' BUNCH!

FOR WHAT THEY DID TO YOU!

AND... AND WHAT TH-THEY'VE DONE T-TO ME!!
LAURIE WEST

I WAKE UP IN A COLD SWEAT, CALLIN' HER NAME! SHE DIED EXACTLY TWO YEARS AGO!
LAURIE...!

I DID MY BEST TO FORGET! ONLY SOMETHIN' DEEP INSIDE WON'T LET HER GO!
STILL EARLY! CAN'T SLEEP!
GOT PLENTY OF TIME TO TRACK SWAMP GAS CHARLIE!

WHEN THE BOMB FAILED, SWAMP GAS CHARLIE WAS ORDERED TO WASTE ME!
LOCAL LEGENDS SAY I CAN'T BE KILLED!
SO FAR, THEY'VE BEEN RIGHT!

IF CHARLIE DIDN'T PLANT THE BOMB HIMSELF, HE MIGHT KNOW THE NAME OF THE HITMAN WHO DID...!

BETTER YET, GASKILL CAN TELL ME WHICH GORDON ORDERED THE HIT ON ME!

"BIG DADDY" GORDON, NEW ORLEANS' CRIME BOSS!

HIS STEPSON, MASTER OF INSIDER STOCK TRADING, ROCCO!

OR ROCK GORDON, WATER-FRONT HOOD AND PETTY RACKETEER!

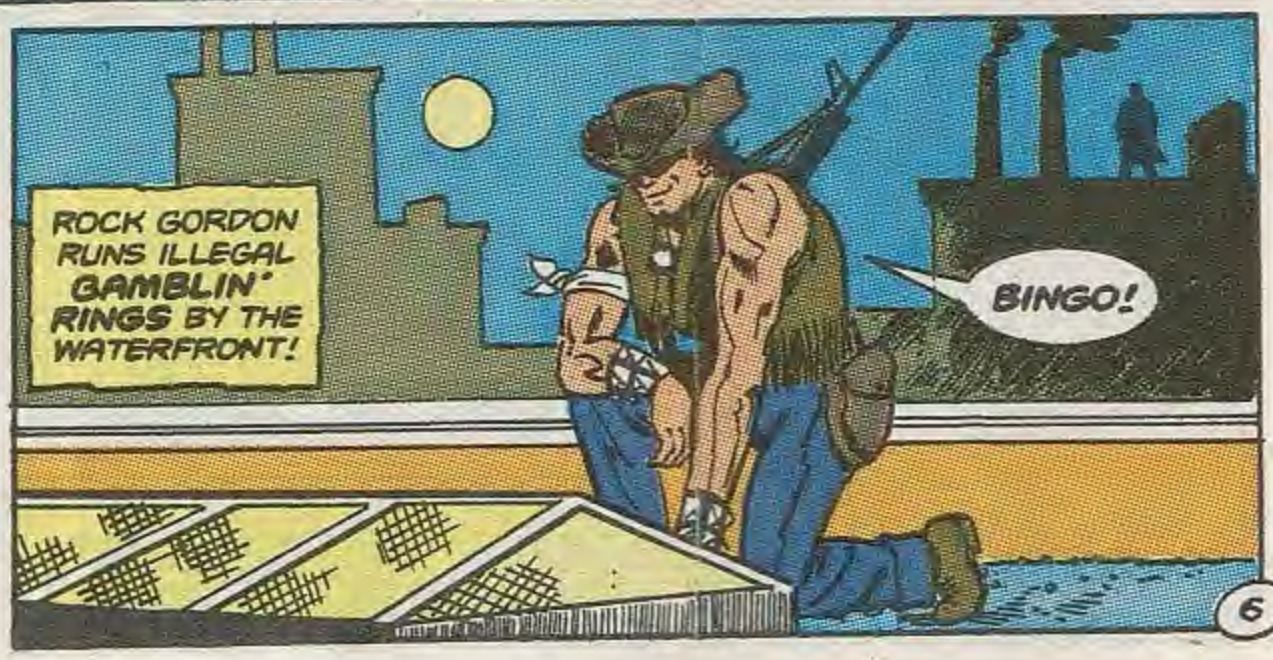
IT'S PARTY TIME!
I'M DRESSED FOR THE OCCASION!

I OPEN MY SECRET PANEL AND BREAK OUT THE HEAVY ARTILLERY!

THERE'S LOTS A REASONS TO ARGUE 'GAINST GUNS!

THEY'RE LOUD, GIVE AWAY YOUR POSITION, AND DON'T HAVE THE SAME SHOCK EFFECT AS A 15-INCH SURVIVAL KNIFE!
KLACK!
STILL, THEY GET THE JOB DONE!

I DRIVE INTO NEW ORLEANS!
ALL I CAN THINK 'BOUT IS LAURIE!


ROCK GORDON RUNS ILLEGAL GAMBLIN' RINGS BY THE WATERFRONT!
BINGO!

IT DOESN'T TAKE ME LONG TO FIND ONE!
POKER GAME! I'M IN LUCK! IT'S A FULL HOUSE!

I MAKE MY ENTRANCE! STEEL-TOED BOOTS GET THE JOB DONE, TOO!
SPA-KRASH!
HOLLEE--!
IT...IT'S BAYOU BILLY!

SCATTER!
FREEZE--!

B-B-BILLY! YOU... YOU WOULDN'T MOW US DOWN OVER A FRIENDLY GULP GAME O-OF POKER, WOULD YOU NOW?!
10-TO-1 SAYS HE WON'T!
YOU'RE ON!

WANNA BET?!
BRIT!
BRITT!
BRIT!
SPANG!
PTANG!
TING!

A GUARD GOES FOR HIS GUN!
BIG MISTAKE!

MY KNIFE IS OUT IN A FLASH AND DANCIN' THROUGH THE AIR!
WHIPTHWIPWHIPTHWIPWHIPTHWIPWHIPTHWIPWHIP

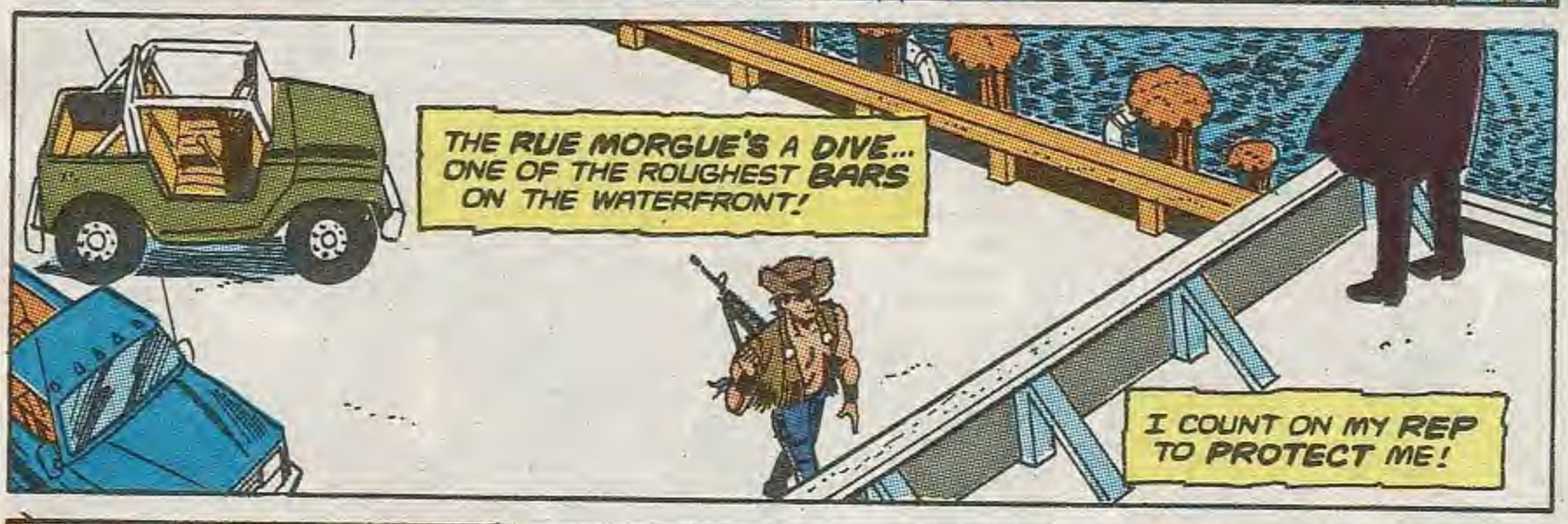
HE FOLDS BEFORE HE CAN PLAY HIS HAND!
BONK!
HOMINA...!

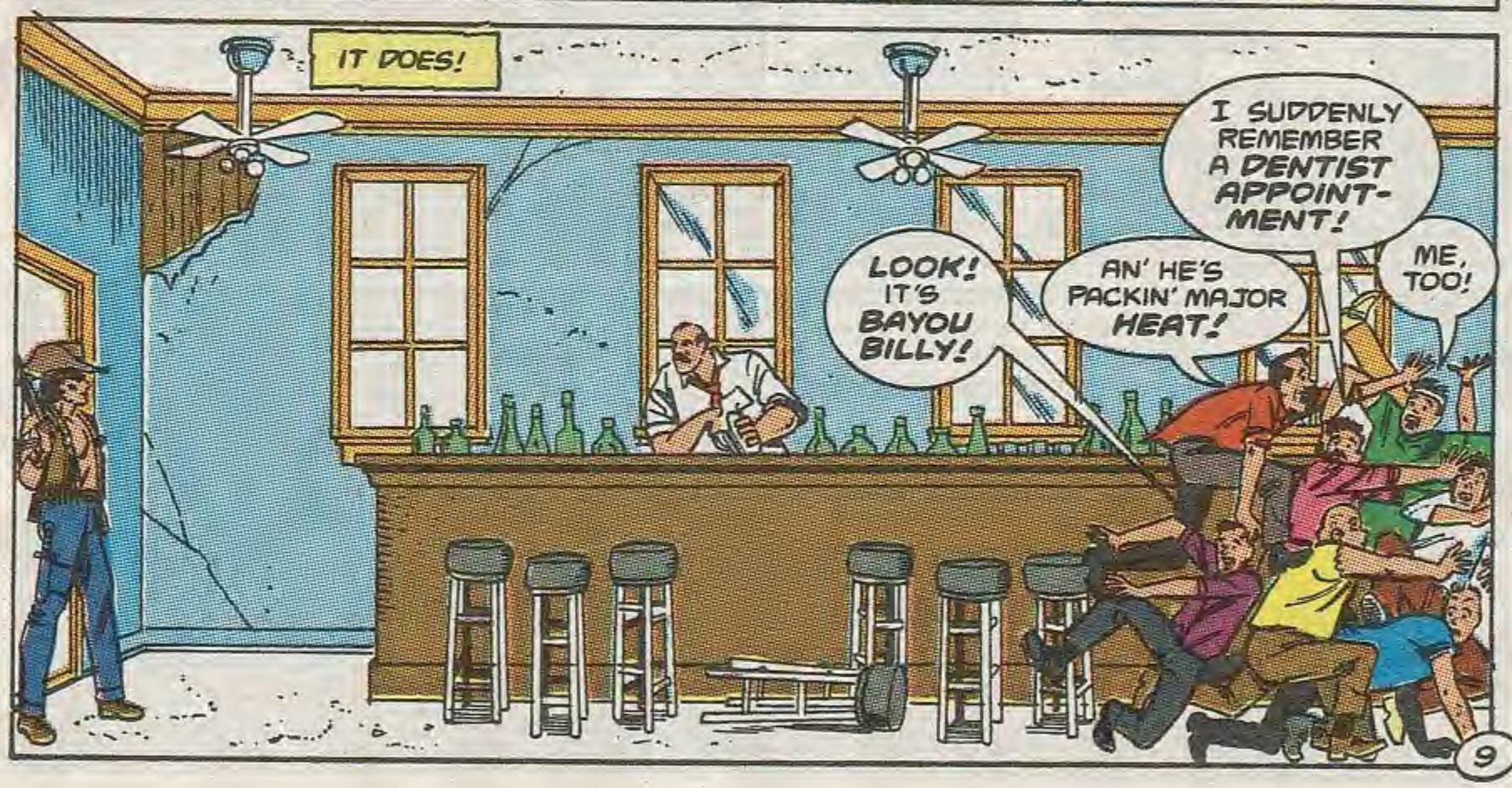
GAK! D-DID YOU S-SEE THAT?!
8-TO-3 SAYS HE CAN'T DO IT AGAIN!
DON'T GIVE 'IM IDEAS, YOU IDIOT!
HERE... HERE'S YOUR KNIFE BACK, BILLY, SIR!
LET US GO! ;SOB; WE'LL BE GOOD! WE PROMISE!

TALK! WHERE CAN I FIND SWAMP GAS CHARLIE?!
I DUNNO!
DON'T SHOOT US!
TRY THE BARTENDER AT THE RUE MORGUE!
YEAH! TRY HIM!
I'LL LAY EVEN ODDS HE KNOWS!

I GET THE "INFO" I NEED AND LEAVE!
HEY! THESE BULLETS--! THEY'RE RUBBER!!
HE BLUFFED US!!
FORGET BILLY! LET'S GET BACK TO THE GAME!
WONDER IF HE LIKES POKER?

4-TO-2 SAYS BILLY GETS HIS TAIL KICKED AT THE RUE MORGUE!
WHERE WERE WE?
OOOOHHH...
YOU'RE COVERED!
I'LL SEE YOUR HUNDRED AND RAISE YOU A HUNDRED!

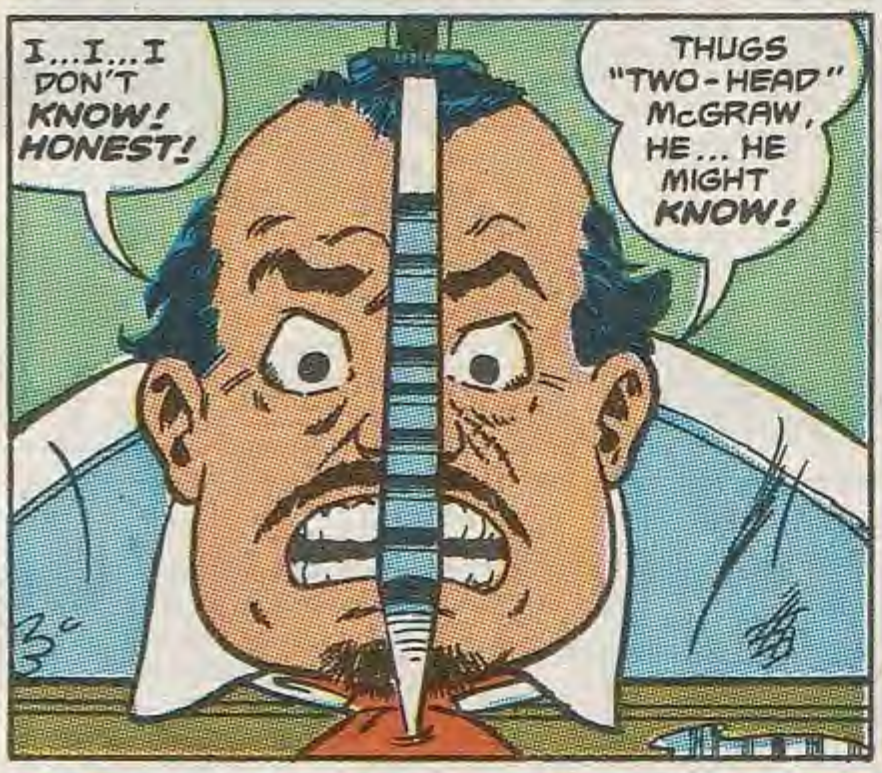

THE RUE MORGUE'S A DIVE... ONE OF THE ROUGHEST BARS ON THE WATERFRONT!
I COUNT ON MY REP TO PROTECT ME!


IT DOES!
I SUDDENLY REMEMBER A DENTIST APPOINTMENT!
LOOK! IT'S BAYOU BILLY!
AN' HE'S PACKIN' MAJOR HEAT!
ME, TOO!

I MAKE FRIENDS WITH THE BARTENDER!
WHERE'S CHARLIE GASKILL?
YOU WANT INFO, GO CALL AN OPERATOR!

WRONG ANSWER!

I SAID... WHERE'S GAS-KILL?
URK!!
THUNK!

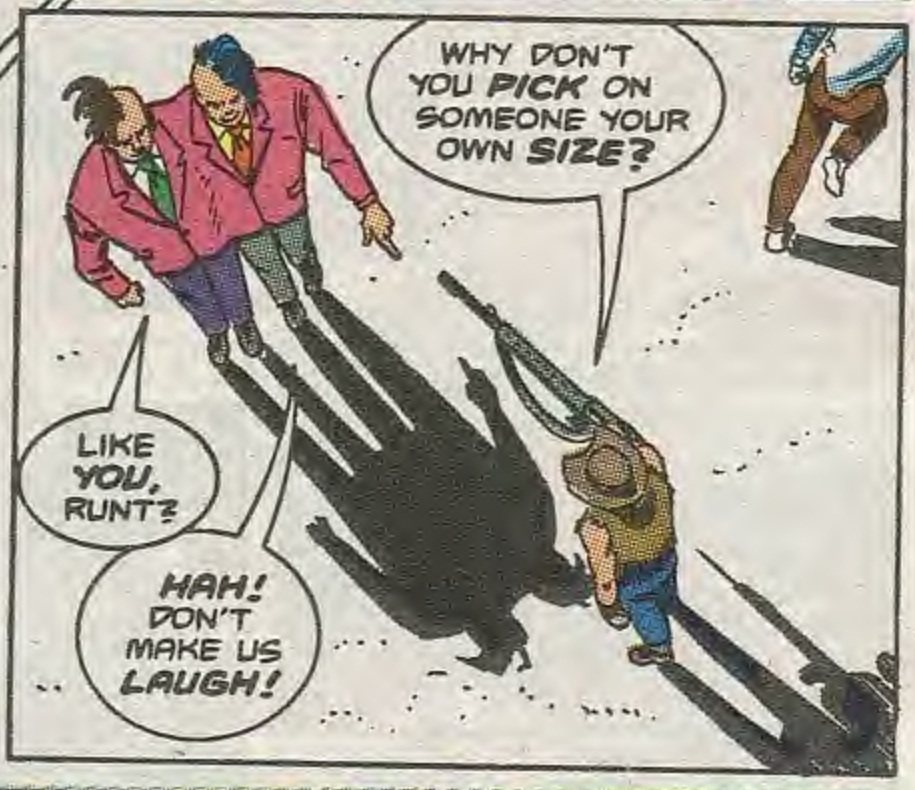

I...I...I DON'T KNOW! HONEST!
THUGS "TWO-HEAD" McGRAW, HE... HE MIGHT KNOW!

THOUGHT YOU'D SEE THINGS MY WAY! THANKS!

ROCK GORDON RUNS A LOCAL LOAN-SHARK OPERATION!
WHEN SUCKERS DON'T PAY UP, THUGS PAYS 'EM A VISIT!
HE SHOULDN'T BE TOO HARD TO FIND!

'SPECIALLY SINCE HE'S A GIANT, A SIAMESE TWIN... A TWO-HEADED BRUISER ON FOUR LEGS!
YOU GONNA PAY?
OR DO WE HAVE TO GET ROUGH, EH?
LEAVE HIM ALONE, BOYS!

BAYOU...
...BILLY!!


WHY DON'T YOU PICK ON SOMEONE YOUR OWN SIZE?
LIKE YOU, RUNT?
HAH! DON'T MAKE US LAUGH!

FOR A BIG MAN, TWO-HEAD CAN MOVE FAST WHEN HE WANTS!
THIS'S ONE OF THOSE TIMES!
LET'S SEE HOW GOOD YOU ARE...
...WITHOUT YOUR LITTLE TOY!
FAK!
UNNH--! TOOK ME BY SURPRISE!

THEY PLAY A LITTLE CHIN MUSIC ON MY FACE!
WHAP!
PTOK!

I'M FAMILIAR WITH THE TUNE!

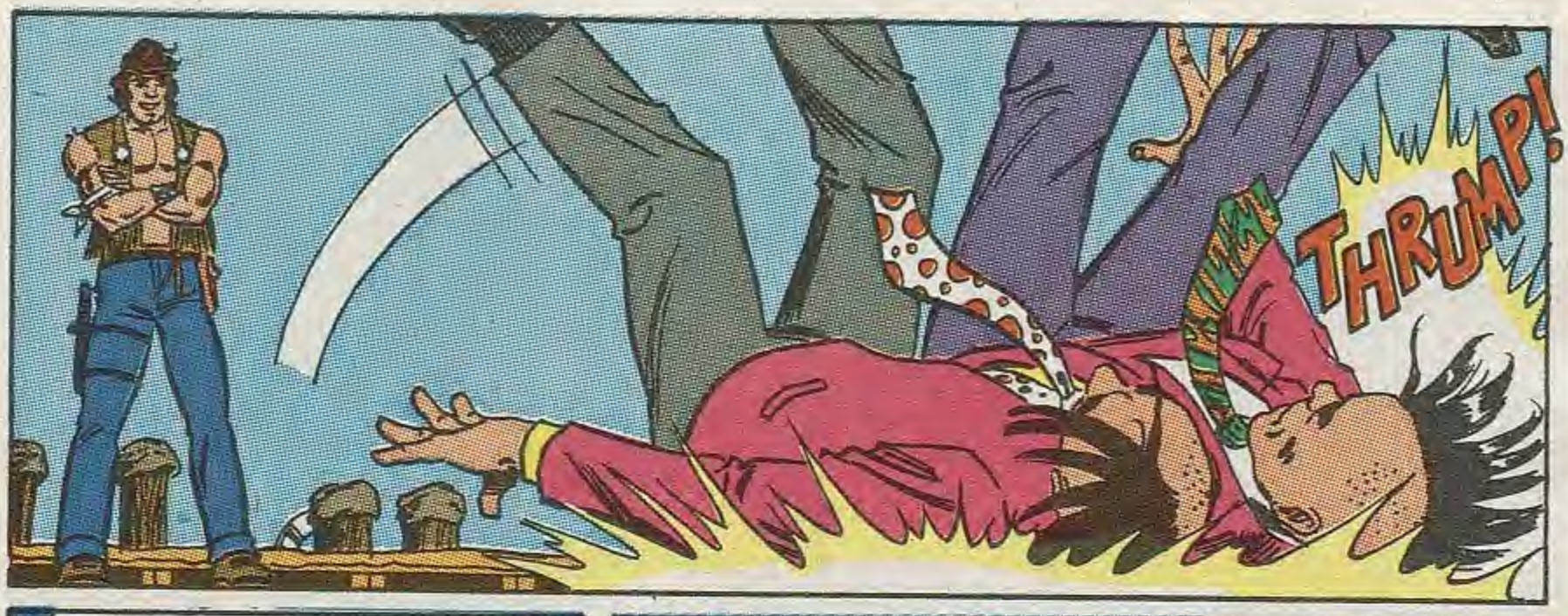
SOK!
I PLAY IT BACK TO 'EM!
PHAK!

FOR GOOD MEASURE...
BAP!
KRAK!

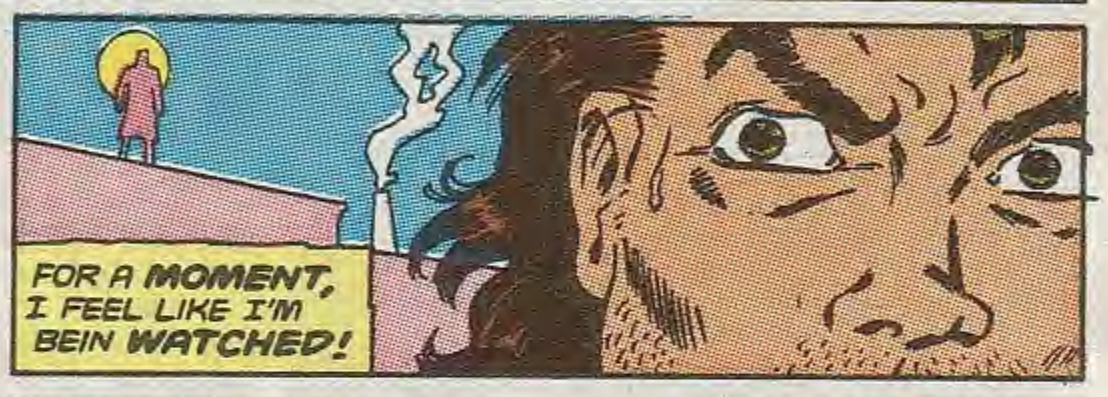
...I DO AN ENCORE!
WHOPP!

SMACK

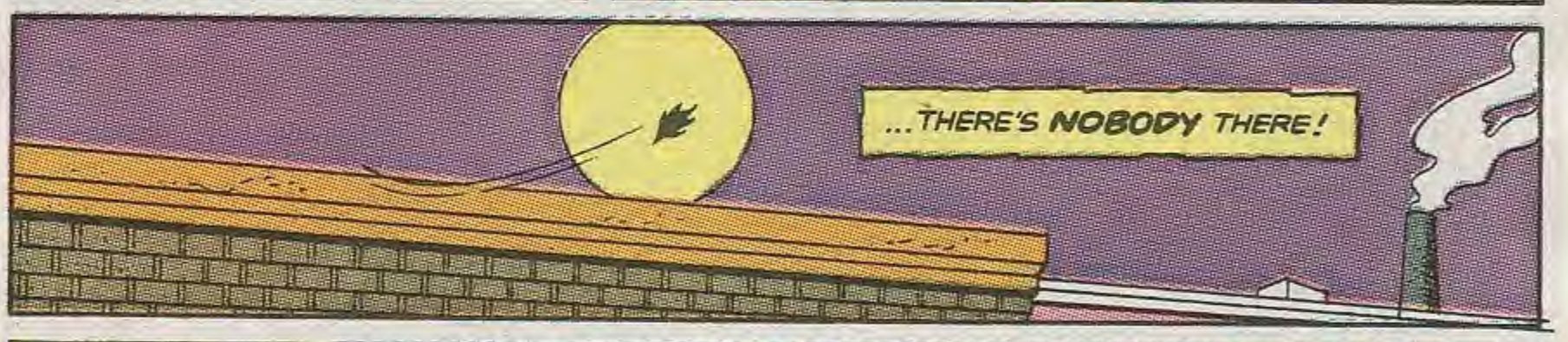
WHOFF!
I GET A STANDING OVATION!

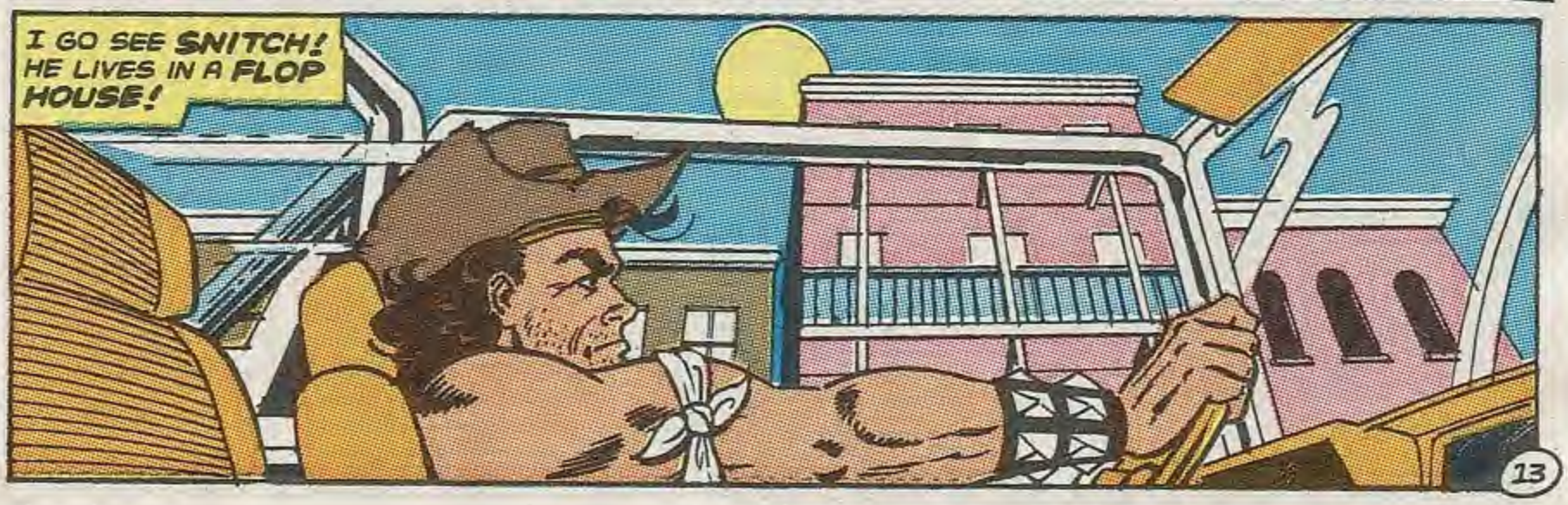

THRUMP!

SPILL YOUR GUTS, TWO-HEAD! WHERE CAN I FIND SWAMP GAS CHARLIE?
SNITCH WOULD KNOW! G-GO ASK SNITCH!
YEAH! SNITCH KNOWS E-EVERY-THING!


FOR A MOMENT, I FEEL LIKE I'M BEIN WATCHED!

BUT WHEN I WHIP 'ROUND...
OOOOHHHH...


...THERE'S NOBODY THERE!


I GO SEE SNITCH! HE LIVES IN A FLOP HOUSE!

HIS LIGHT IS ON! HE'S NOT EXPECTIN' VISITORS!
HE'S IN FOR ONE HECKUVA SHOCK!

WORD ON THE STREET SAYS SNITCH'D SELL HIS GRANDMAW--FOR THE RIGHT PRICE!

CLIMBING THE STAIRS, I STEP ON SOMETHING THAT CRUNCHES!
EEE-YUK!
I DON'T KNOW WHAT IT IS!
KEE-RUNCH!
I DON'T WANT TO KNOW...!

I FISH OUT A DERRINGER SHOT-GUN FROM MY BAG O' TRICKS!
SNITCH IS FAST!

I GOTTA BE FASTER!
BLA-DRAMM!!
I BLOW OPEN THE LOCK ON HIS DOOR!

CONTINUED ON 3RD PAGE FOLLOWING.

EDITORIALS FROM THE SWAMP!

WHAT'S LURKING IN THIS SWAMP?

Throughout my lifetime I have often been accused of being quite formal, especially where introductions are concerned. At this stage of my life, I am just too stubborn to change my old habits. Therefore, I believe a formal introduction is in order: My name is Scott D. Fulop and I am the editor of Bayou Billy. I would like to take this opportunity to extend to you the most hearty of welcomes as we begin the fourth issue of America's newest heroic sensation. Whew! Now that the formalities are out of the way, we can get down to real business.

Over the past few months I have travelled around the country attending various comic book conventions and trade shows on behalf of Archie Comics. After speaking with literally hundreds of fans and comic book retailers, it became quite obvious that the "world at large" was not completely familiar with this dynamic new character. I think you will agree, that the very first Bayou Billy editorial page might be the best place to give you some insights into the genesis of this new series.

Bayou Billy originated as a video game created by those innovative people at Konami Inc., makers of such great games as CastleVania, Contra, Jackal, and many more! Konami designed this game for home play (available now as we speak) with the Nintendo Video Game System. It dawned on Konami and Archie Comics that a game concept about a guy who is a master of weaponry and hand to hand combat, knows the ancient secrets of the swamp, is a bounty hunter, whose arch enemy is a New Orleans crime boss, and who faces such colorful villains as Swamp Gas Charlie, Hurricane Hank, and the Cajun Cut Throat, just might contain the makings of an interesting comic book series. Sounded like a good idea to me! Konami presented Archie Comics with the basic concept of the Bayou Billy character and game itself, a list of extremely colorful names of supporting characters and adversaries (some of whose likenesses appear in the game), and a video tape of the fabulous game graphics. Some of the characters in the game concept like "Billy" himself were fairly well defined. Other characters had names that implied an appearance or ability, and still others like Blackie Blue (last issue's swamp stompin' villain!) had yet to see any character development. The basic task at hand was to take the entire adventurous concept, add in a heaping helpful of humor, and breath some comic book life into it. We knew what the game looked like, but what were the actual characters like? How did they speak? What mannerisms and personalities did they possess? What were their motivations? Origins? Goals? Well, we immediately called upon writer Rich Margopoulos who has an extensive adventure, science fiction, and fantasy background to help us out. After many long brainstorming sessions between Rich, Archie Comics, and Konami, we present to you the culmination of our efforts. We hope you're pleased! Next issue in this space we'll have some more direct insights into this series and we'll even have an interview with the ol' Rajun' Cajun Writer himself—Rich Margopoulos!

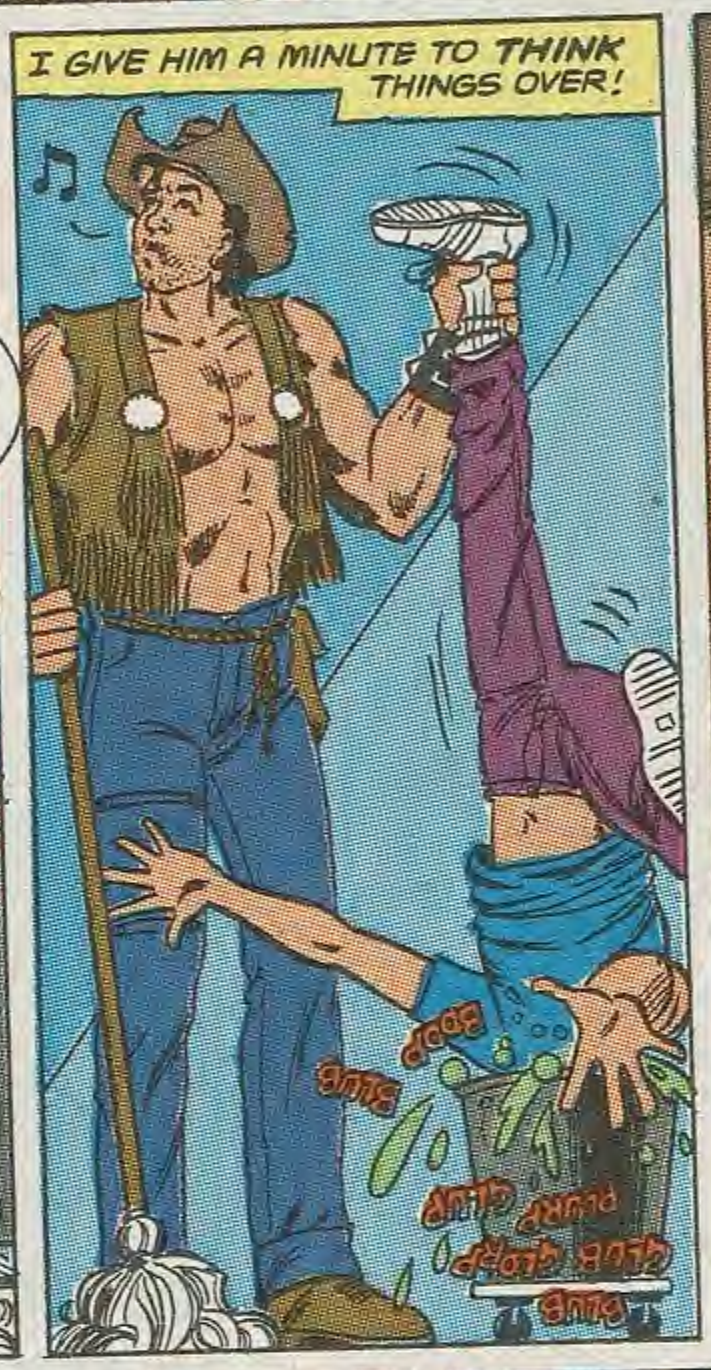
Till we have the pleasure of speaking again,

Scott

Send your questions and comments to:
Scott Fulop,
Editor / Swamp Sayin's
c/o Archie Comic Publications, Inc.
325 Fayette Ave.
Mamaroneck, NY 10543

SEE? THE CLEANING LADY LEFT BEHIND HER MOP AND BUCKET!
S-S-SO?

SO, IT'S TIME TO PLAY BOBBIN' FOR MOP STRANDS!
BILLY! NO! DON'T! PLEASE! YOU WOULDN'T --!!


I GIVE HIM A MINUTE TO THINK THINGS OVER!

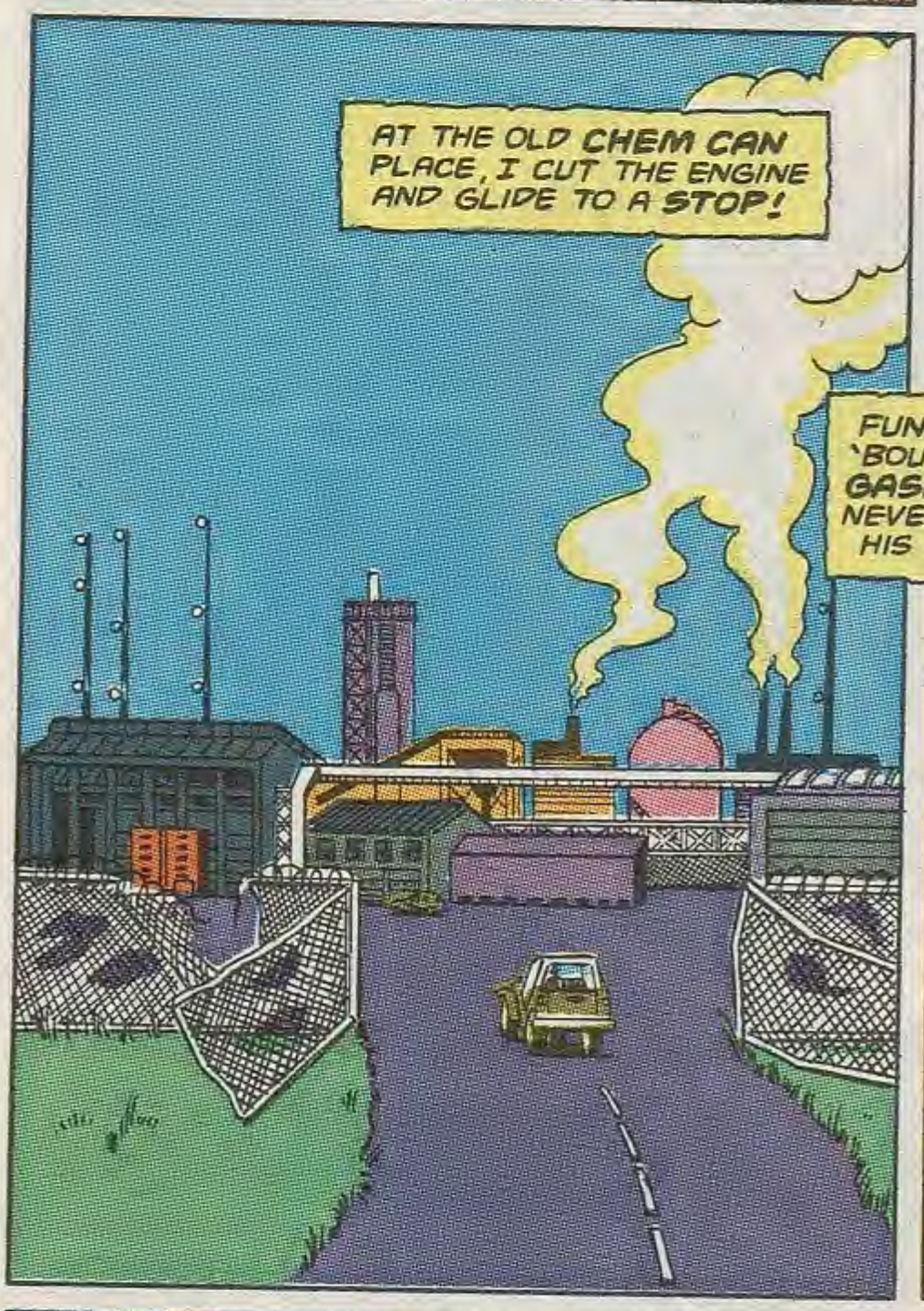
WELL?
I'LL TALK! I'LL TALK! I'LL TALK...!

GASKILL'S HOLED UP IN THE OLD CHEM CAN PLACE, WHERE THEY USED TO CLEAN OUT CHEMICAL DRUMS!
B-BUT YOU DIDN'T HEAR IT FROM ME!

TRUST ME, SNITCH!
WOULD I LET YOU DOWN?!
EVEN AS I'M LEAVING, HE'S ALREADY PACKIN' HIS BAGS FOR PARTS UNKNOWN!

CAN'T SAY I BLAME HIM! HE'S GOT HIS PROBLEMS! I GOT MINE!

I GO SEE SWAMP GAS CHARLIE!


AT THE OLD CHEM CAN PLACE, I CUT THE ENGINE AND GLIDE TO A STOP!

FUNNY THING 'BOUT CHARLIE GASKILL! HE NEVER LOCKS HIS DOORS!
WHAMM!
EITHER HE HAS TOTAL FAITH IN HIS GAS BOMBS...

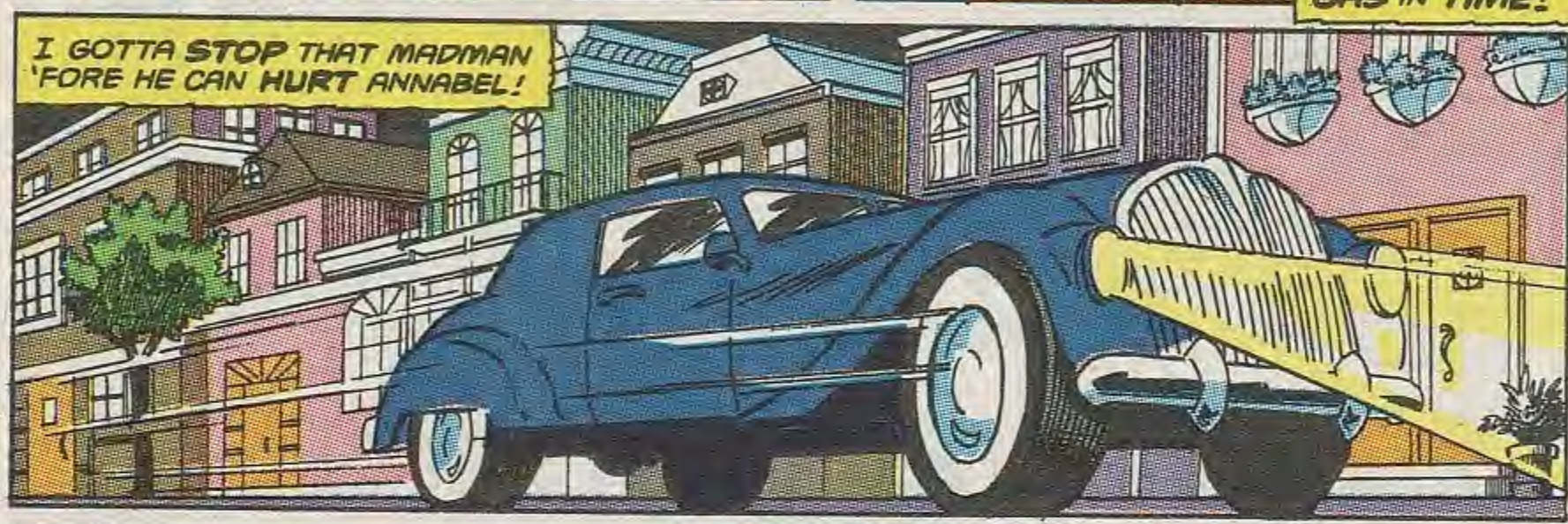
...OR HE'S VERY STUPID! ME, I KNOW WHAT HIS BOMBS CAN DO!
BAYOU BILLY?
¡AHHH! HERE?! SO SOON?!?
I DON'T THINK HE'S STUPID!

PUT THE FLASK DOWN NOW!!!
DON'T TRY ANYTHING!

VERY WELL! IF YOU ;AHHH; INSIST!
KRA-TINKLE!
GAS! I CAN SMELL IT! TASTE IT, EVEN!
YOU SHOULD BE HONORED!
YOU ARE THE FIRST TO FEEL THE ;AHHH; EFFECTS OF KALEIDOSCOPE GAS!
I GROW WEARY OF YOUR ;AHHH; MEDDLESOME WAYS!
IT IS TIME YOU WERE TAUGHT A ;AHHH; LESSON!
WHO IS THE GIRL YOU'VE GROWN EXCEEDINGLY FOND OF? AH, YES! THE ASSISTANT D.A. ;AHHH; MISS ANNABEL LEE!
AFTER I DISPATCH HER, I SHALL ;AHHH; RETURN TO DEAL WITH YOU!
TRY NOT TO DWELL ON THESE UNPLEASANT THOUGHTS WHILE I'M AWAY, EH? HA, HA ;AHHH; HA, HA!

I CARRY FOUR BAYOU ROOT-LETS IN MY BAG O' TRICKS!
I FIND THE ONE I NEED BY TOUCH ALONE!

I BITE DOWN HARD! BITTER JUICE SQUIRTS INTO MY MOUTH! THE HERB'S A BLOOD PURIFIER!
I PRAY IT'LL COUNTERACT THE GAS IN TIME!


I GOTTA STOP THAT MADMAN 'FORE HE CAN HURT ANNABEL!

EEP!
AL'S GARAGE & TOWING

SSST
WHAT THE DEVIL--?!
KNOK! NOK!

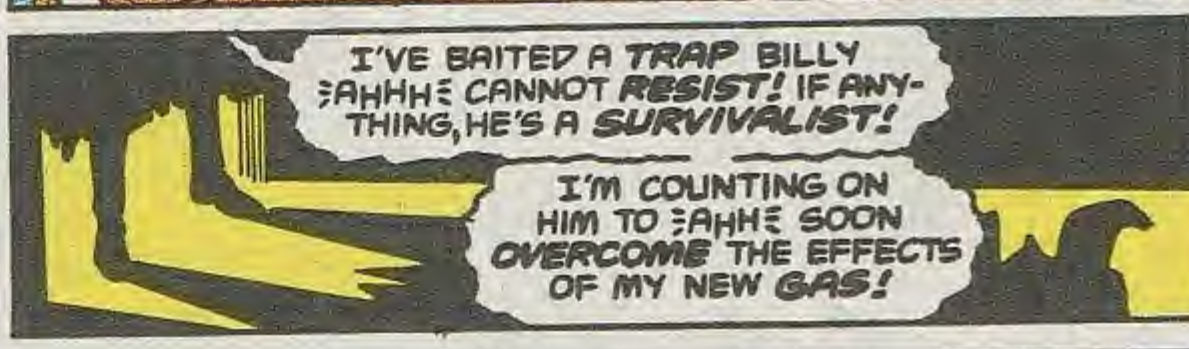
WHO CAN IT BE AT THIS HOUR?!
CLUNK!

REST ASSURED IT IS NO ;AHH: DOOR-TO-DOOR COSMETIC SALESMAN, ALEXANDRA LA ROCHELLE!

THOUGH I MUST ADMIT I HAVE AN UNUSUAL SCENT FOR YOU TO ;AHHH: SAMPLE!

ESSENCE OF SLEEP GAS!
FUMP!

SNITCH INFORMED ME SEVERAL DAYS AGO THIS IS WHERE BAYOU BILLY STORES HIS REMARKABLE VEHICLES! ;AHHH:
IT IS TIME TO PUT THAT ;AHH: KNOWLEDGE TO THE TEST...

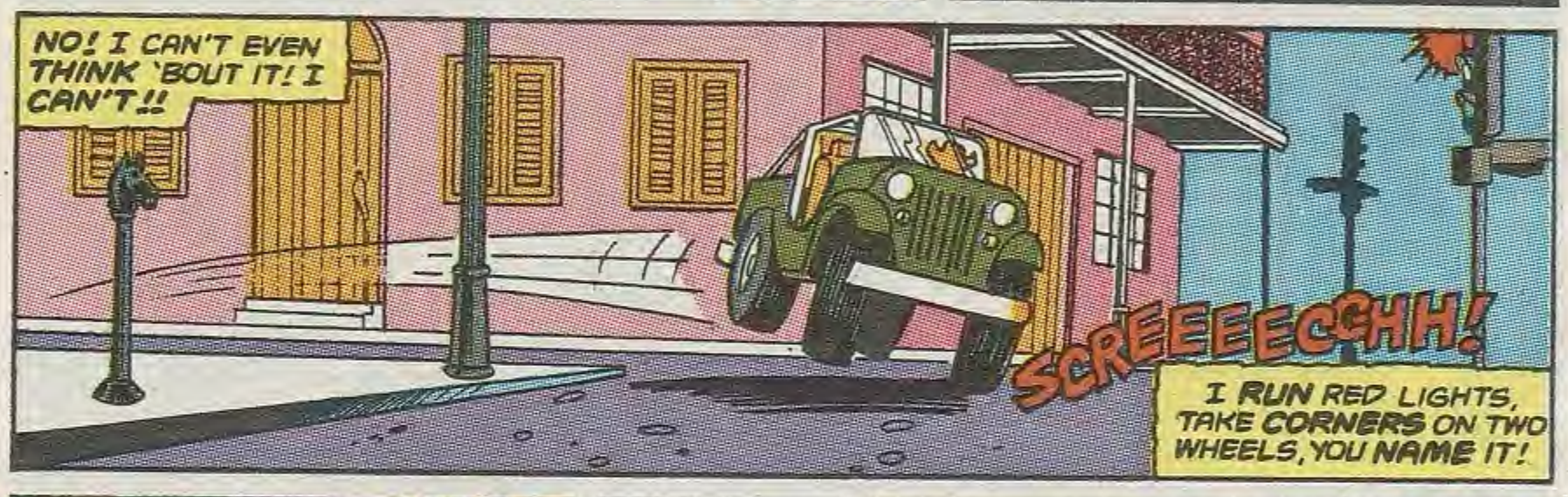

I'VE BAITED A TRAP BILLY ;AHHH: CANNOT RESIST! IF ANYTHING, HE'S A SURVIVALIST!
I'M COUNTING ON HIM TO ;AHH: SOON OVERCOME THE EFFECTS OF MY NEW GAS!

HOW IRONIC, ONE OF HIS OWN MONSTER TRUCKS SHALL DESTROY HIM! ;AHHHH:
BUT WHICH ;AHH: WILL IT BE? THEY ALL LOOK SO DANGEROUS...!

THE ROOT STARTS TO WORK!
REALITY SWIMS BACK INTO FOCUS! MY EYES'RE NO LONGER FUN HOUSE MIRRORS!

WHOA! STILL WOOZY--!

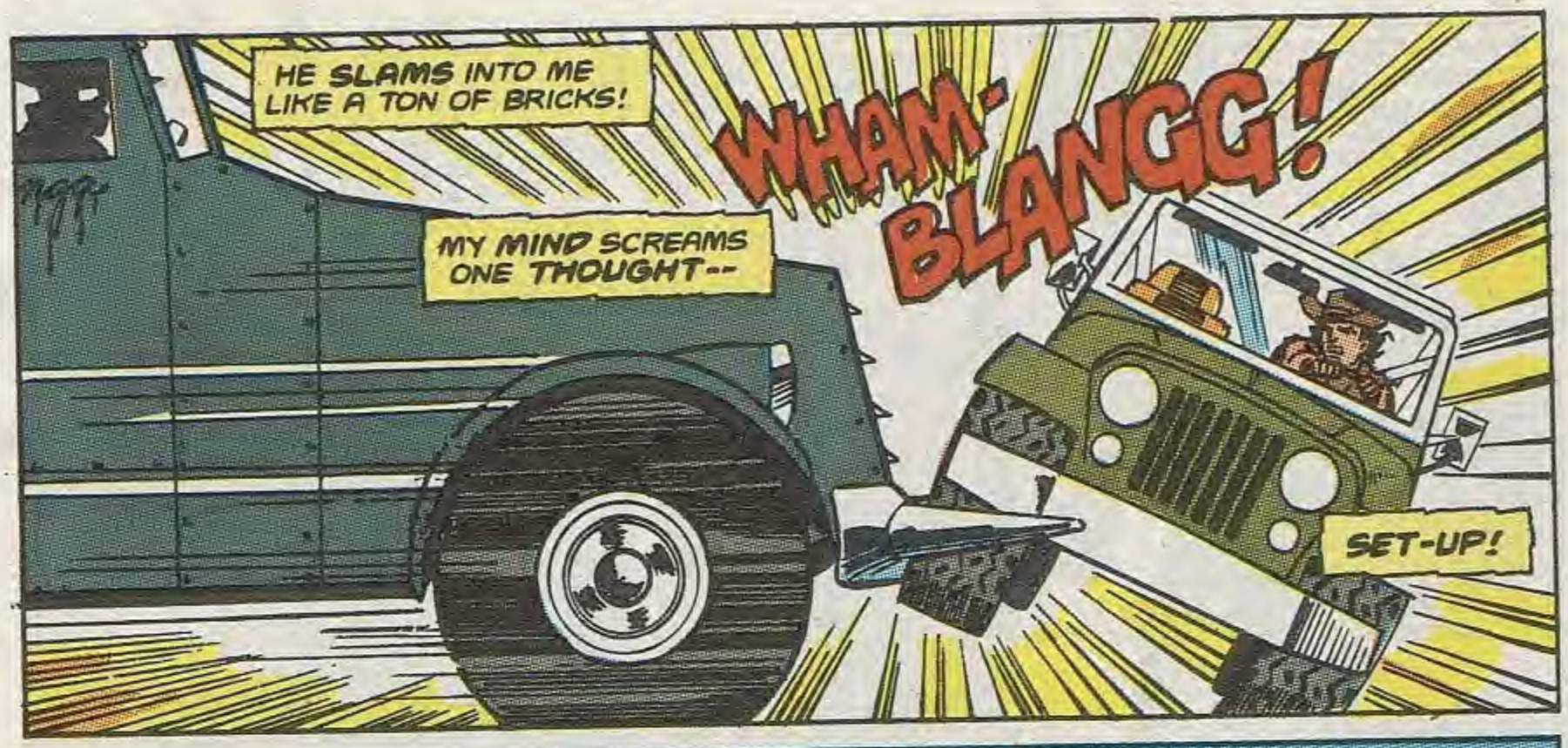
I MAKE UP FOR LOST TIME! I BUCKLE UP AND PUNCH IT!
IF I LOSE ANNABEL ON THE SAME DATE AS LAURIE--!


NO! I CAN'T EVEN THINK 'BOUT IT! I CAN'T!!
SCREEEECCHH!
I RUN RED LIGHTS, TAKE CORNERS ON TWO WHEELS, YOU NAME IT!

I REACH HER PLACE IN RECORD TIME!
I DON'T SEE GASKILL'S ROADSTER!
I BEGIN TO 'SPECT THE WORST!

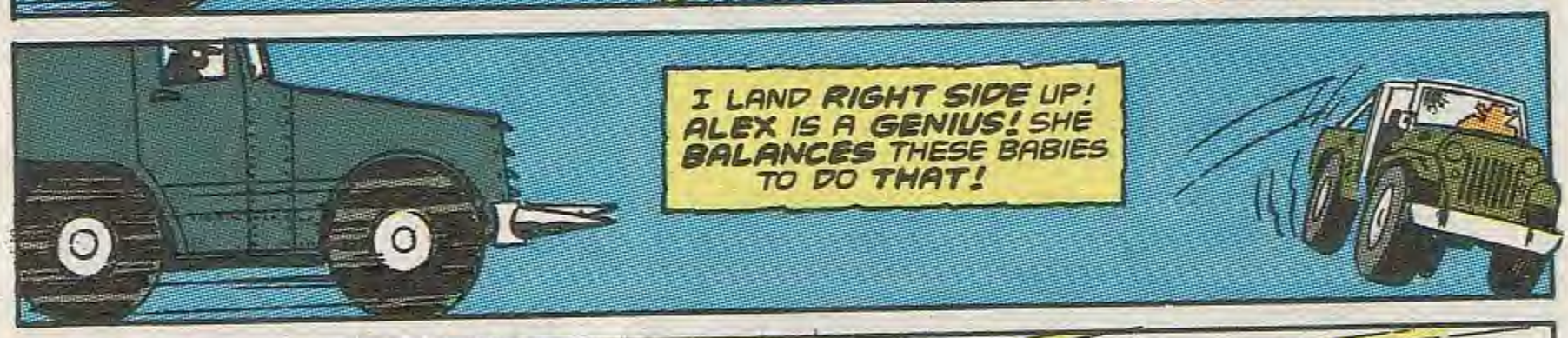
OH, LORDY! PLEASE DON'T LET ME BE TOO LATE!

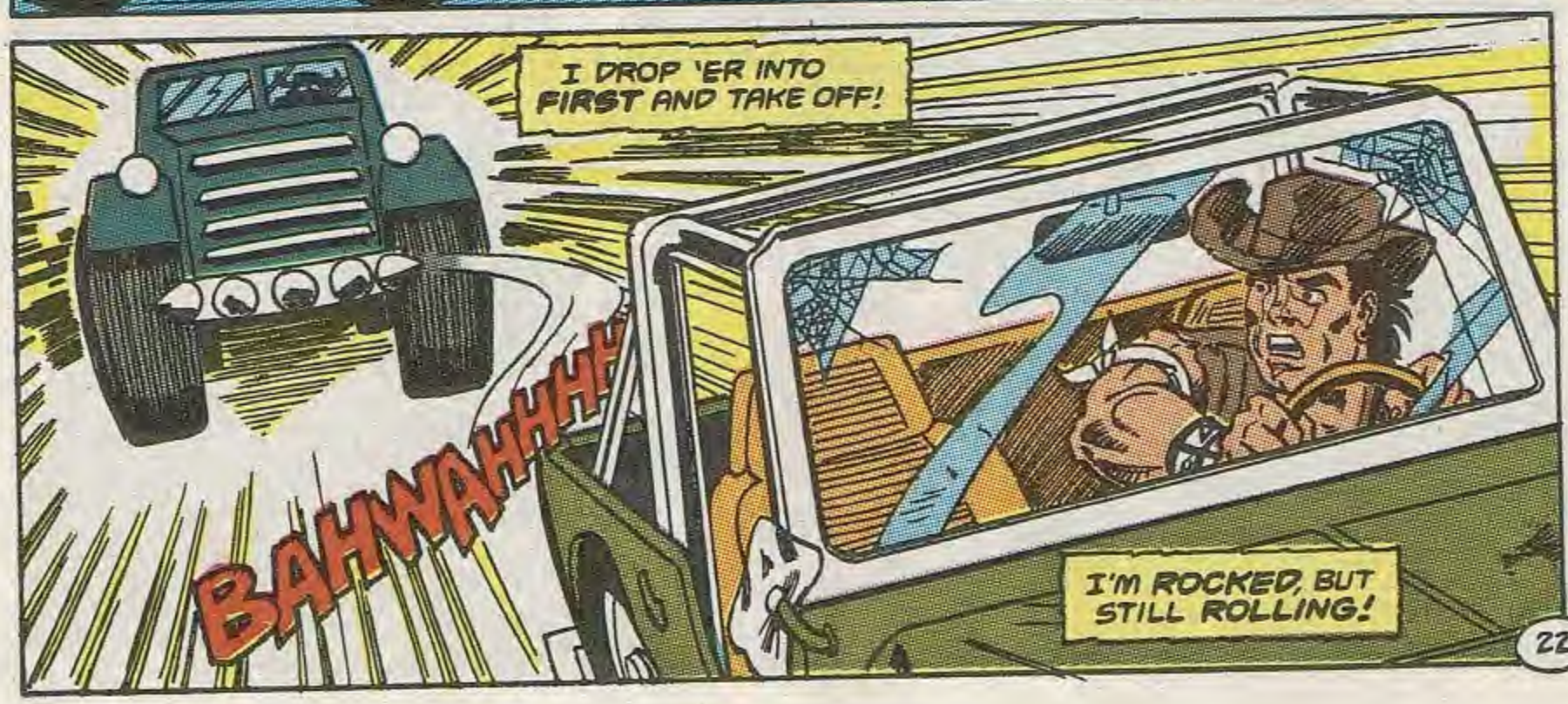
SUDDENLY, LIGHTS SNAP ON! I HEAR HIM COMIN' AT ME 'FORE I EVEN SEE HIM!
VARHOOOOMM
SWAMP GAS CHARLIE--!

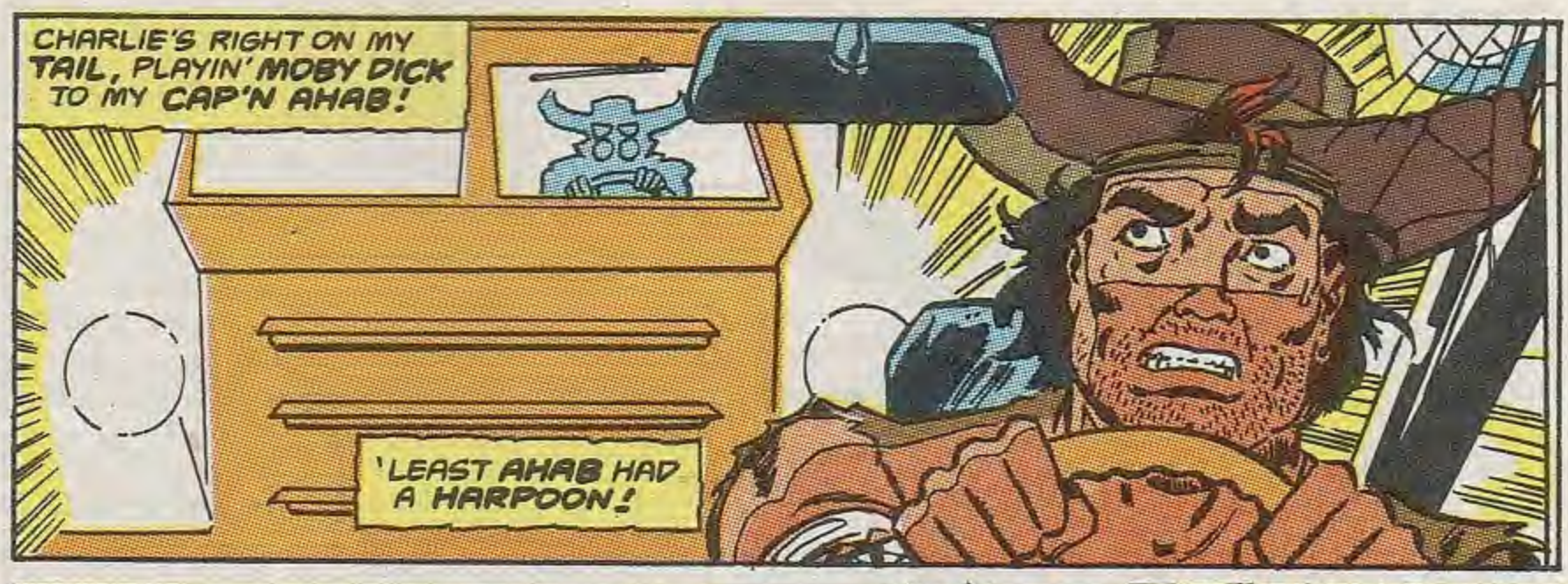

HE SLAMS INTO ME LIKE A TON OF BRICKS!
WHAM-BLANGG!
MY MIND SCREAMS ONE THOUGHT--
SET-UP!

WORSE, HE'S STOLEN ONE OF MY MONSTER TRUCKS!
KATRANG!
TALK 'BOUT ADDIN' INSULT TO INJURY...!

MY BILLY-MOBILE FLIPS OVER TWICE! ROLL BARS AND SEAT BELTS SAVE MY LIFE!
KLUNK
WRANG


I LAND RIGHT SIDE UP! ALEX IS A GENIUS! SHE BALANCES THESE BABIES TO DO THAT!


I DROP 'ER INTO FIRST AND TAKE OFF!
BAHWAHHHH
I'M ROCKED, BUT STILL ROLLING!


CHARLIE'S RIGHT ON MY TAIL, PLAYIN' MOBY DICK TO MY CAP'N AHAB!
'LEAST AHAB HAD A HARPOON!

GASKILL'S FAST AS I AM, HAS ARMOR PLATE, AN' MORE POWER!
I DON'T NEED A CRYSTAL BALL TO KNOW I'M IN DEEP YOGURT!
FAH-BHAMMMM!

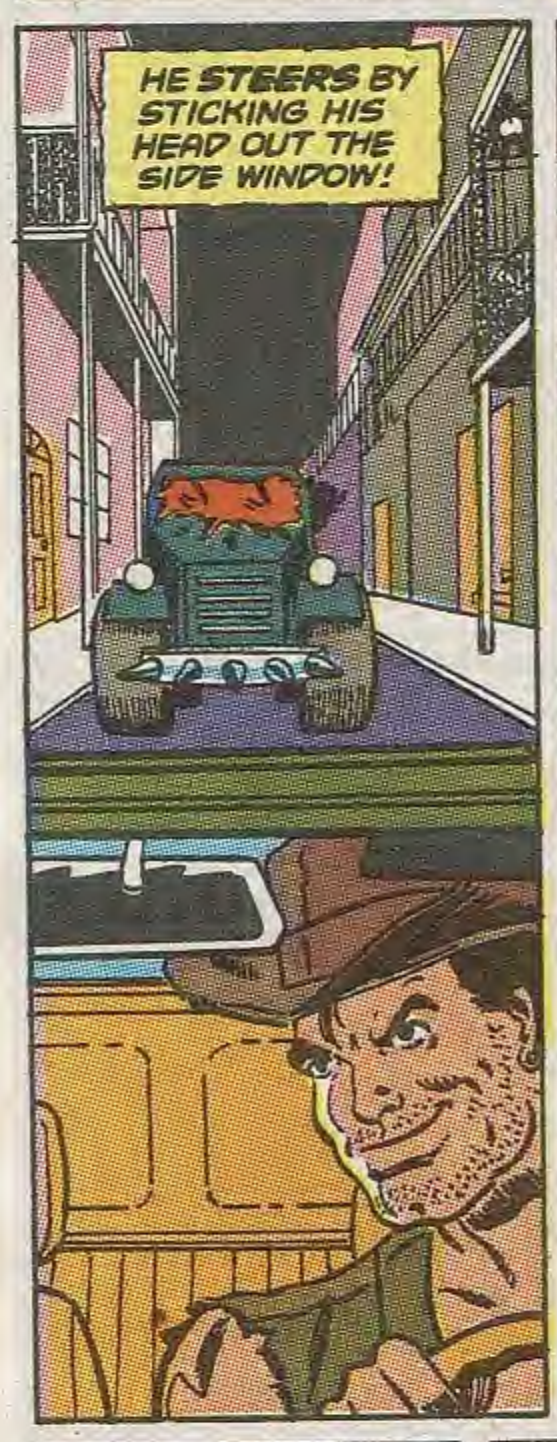
BA-BAMMM!
FRANTIC, I FUMBLE 'ROUND UNDER THE SEAT!
MAYBE I CAN COME UP WITH A FLARE GUN, A SPARE HAND GRENADE! ANYTHING!!

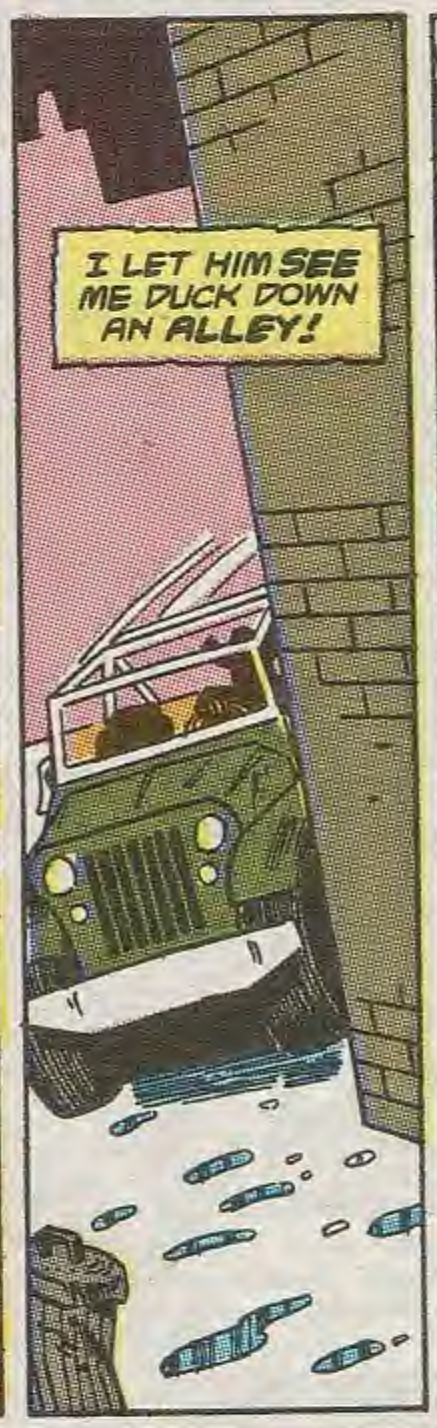
I FIND SOMETHING A WHOLE LOT BETTER A PINT OF PAINT!
PAINT

I LOB IT OVER MY SHOULDER!

IT MAKES A PRETTY PICTURE ON HIS WINDSHIELD!
SPLUTT!
RASSA-FRASSA
AHHH
MUMBLE-GRUMBLE!

rink-rik
rink-rik
rink-rik
CHARLIE HITS THE WIPERS! HE CAN'T SEE FOR SPIT! HE SLOWS DOWN TO A CRAWL!

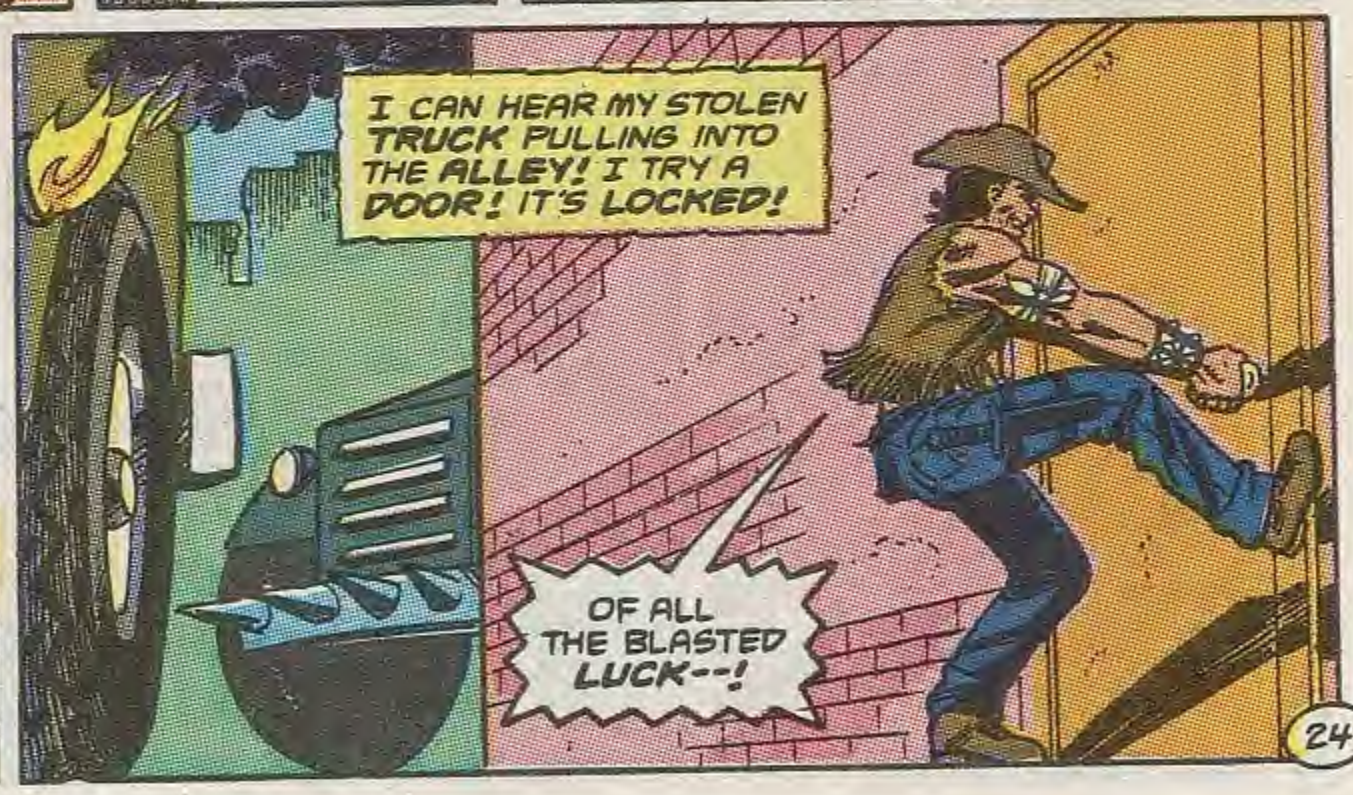

HE STEERS BY STICKING HIS HEAD OUT THE SIDE WINDOW!


I LET HIM SEE ME DUCK DOWN AN ALLEY!

DEAD END!
EEEEEUCCCH!
GOOD!
BETTER'N I PLANNED!

I'M GONNA THROW GASKILL A WARM RECEPTION!
I STUFF A RAG DOWN MY GAS TANK AND LIGHT IT!

:CHUCKLE: CHARLIE'S GONNA GET A REAL BANG OUTTA THIS!


I CAN HEAR MY STOLEN TRUCK PULLING INTO THE ALLEY! I TRY A DOOR! IT'S LOCKED!
OF ALL THE BLASTED LUCK--!

DON'T HAVE TIME TO BE SUBTLE!
BRAKK!

CHARLIE CAN'T RESIST RAMMING MY BILLY-MOBILE! HE DOESN'T KNOW I'VE TURNED IT INTO THE WORLD'S LARGEST MOLOTOV COCKTAIL!

SKRUNCH!
THE EXPLOSION WON'T HURT HIM, OR INGA'S ARMOR-- JUST MELT THE TIRES TO THE GROUND!
THEN, HE'S MINE!

GASKILL DOESN'T LET ME DOWN! IT'S NO FUN WHEN THEY'RE THIS PREDICTABLE!
BLA-DROOOM!

HE THINKS I BOUGHT IT, KICKS OPEN THE CAB DOOR TO FLEE!
SPANG

HE FINDS ME WAITIN' ON HIM!
GOIN' SOMEWHERE, CHARLIE?
ÆAHHÆ I-IT... IT CAN'T BE!

BAYOU BILLY!!

I FIGURED SWAMP GAS TO BE AN EASY TAKE DOWN! HE'S NOT!
YOU HAVE MORE LIVES THAN AN INFERNAL CAT!
FORTUNATELY, THIS VERTIGO GAS GRENADE SHALL COVER MY ESCAPE...!

I HOLD MY BREATH! CHARLIE PAUSES TO GLOAT!
FAREWELL FOR NOW, FOOL! WHEN NEXT WE CLASH, YOU'LL ÆAHHÆ FINALLY FALL BEFORE ME!!

LIKE I SAID, PREDICT-ABLE!

THEN I--!
WAIT!
I REACH OUT WITH AN IRON GRIP AND RIP THE GAS MASK OFF HIS FACE!

I HEAR THE VELCRO STRAPS TEAR FREE..!
MY MASK!
YOU CANNOT DO THAT!

I EXHALE SHARPLY, CLEARING THE MASK OF EXCESS GAS!
OH, YES, I CAN!

JUST HOLD THAT POSE!
:KOFF:

THIS'LL BE OVER...
:WHEEZE:
WHUMP!

'FORE YOU CAN SAY "OUCH!"
BAPP!
:HACK:
KLUDD!

I DRAG HIM OUT OF THE GAS, OUT OF THE ALLEY, OUT INTO THE STREET!
:AHHH:
:AHHH:
:AHHH:

HERE! PUT THIS BACK ON!
CHARLIE'S GOT A RESPIRATORY CONDITION! WITHOUT THE MASK, HE DIES!

:AHHH:
:AHHH:
:AHHH:
I NEED HIM ALIVE FOR QUESTIONING!

WHO IS STALKING BAYOU BILLY? HINT: YOU HAVE TO PICK UP THE NEXT ISH TO FIND OUT!

SEND YOUR COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS TO:

c/o ARCHIE COMICS
325 FAYETTE AVENUE
MAMARONECK, NY 10543

Dear Editor:

At first, I thought Bayou Billy was just another comic book for little kids addicted to video games. Uh-Uh. Bayou Billy isn't just for children. It's straight ahead, down home good ol' boy adventure, that makes me think of it as a cross between Rambo and the Dukes of Hazzard.

After reading the first two issues of Bayou Billy, I'm definitely hooked on the series. I'm a sucker for high adventure and human drama with a charitable dose of reality. My hat's off to Rich Margopoulos for some solid scripts. Amanda Conner's a promising talent, but the only knock critics will have is that Mike Esposito's inks make this book look like any other Archie book. Brother, this is as far removed from Archie as it can get. I think, though, that Reggie Mantle might fit in nicely with Giles Gordon's gang (Ha!). He's just Gordon's type.

Report Card: Script—A. Artwork—B+ . On a scale of 1-10, I'd rate this comic book a 7.

See you in sixty. Aloha.
Jacob Gilbert
Troy, NY

Thanks for the high marks Jacob. When we developed Bayou Billy, we took care to make the series interesting and exciting for a wide and varied readership. This readership included video game addicts, comic fans, and general audiences from children to adults. As you can see by reading this issue, Mike Esposito's inking and the artwork as a whole has vastly improved since issue #1. Many times, it takes an artistic team an issue or three to become comfortable with their respective styles and their new assignment. I hope Bayou Billy will rate a 10 with you before long!

Dear Archie Comics:

Bayou Billy is the best comic book I have ever read! My favorite issue so far was #1. I can't wait for the fourth Bayou Billy comic book. Hurricane Hank is my favorite guy! Is Swamp Gas Charlie Human?

Waiting for your reply,
Sincerely,
Billy Pollock
Napa, CA

Thanks for your enthusiastic comments! I hope the wait for the issue you now hold in your hands was worth it. After reading this issue, I am sure you can see that Swamp Gas Charlie is most definitely human—but very, very, WEIRD!! Hey Billy, now that you're a real fan, are people calling you *BAYOU* Billy?!

Dear Archie Comics:

I loved the first issue of Bayou Billy. When my friend showed me it, I bought it right away. I've been looking for a month and finally found #2. I loved it when Billy got fifty thousand dollars off of Gordon. I hope you keep making them better, because I'll keep buying them.

Your #1 fan,
Shannon Casey
Manistique, MI

Well Shannon, I guess you're going to be buying Bayou Billy for a long time, because we're going to work hard to make each issue better and better!

Dear Swamp Sayin's,

Bayou Billy is awesome! I have issues 1 and 2, and plan to get all the rest for as long as they exist. I have a suggestion to better your comic: Put a section in it with tips for the video game. Once word gets out, I'm sure it will attract readers.

Yours truly,
Marcus Blair (Bayou Blair)
Heavener, OK

How do the rest of you feel? Should each issue include tips on playing the exciting Bayou Billy video game?

Dear Authors of Bayou Billy,

I love Bayou Billy comics, and don't want to complain, but in issue #2, "Big Daddy" Gordon was sleeping with his sunglasses on! Why?

Nick Brown, Comic Collector
Belleview, FL

Well, As everybody knows, "Big Daddy" Gordon is a real SHADY guy! No, huh? O.K., we goofed! AMANDA!! Where are you?!

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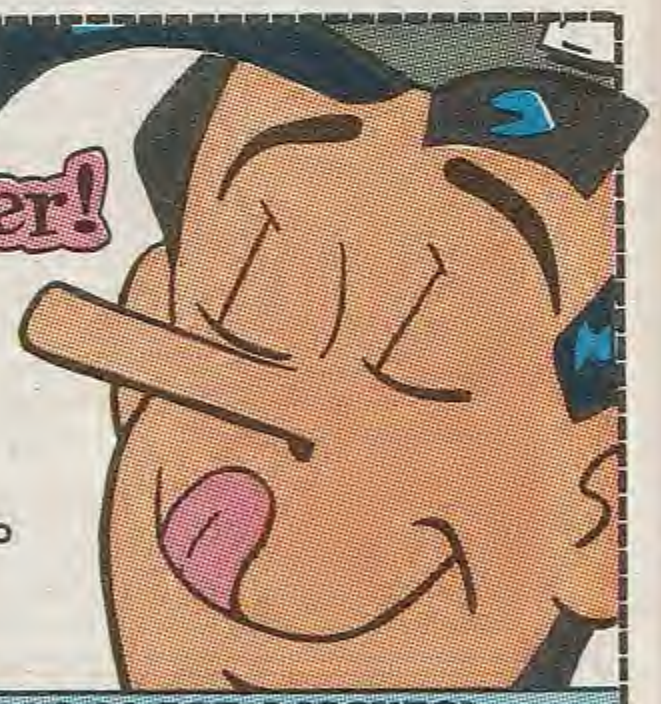

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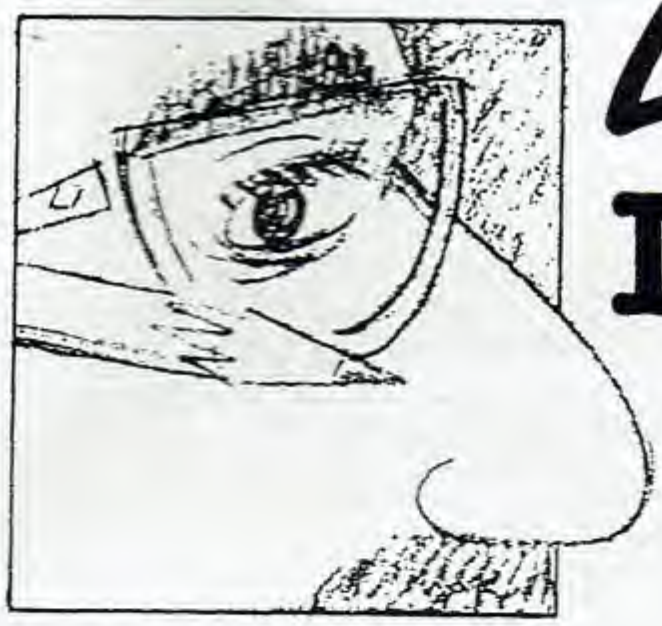
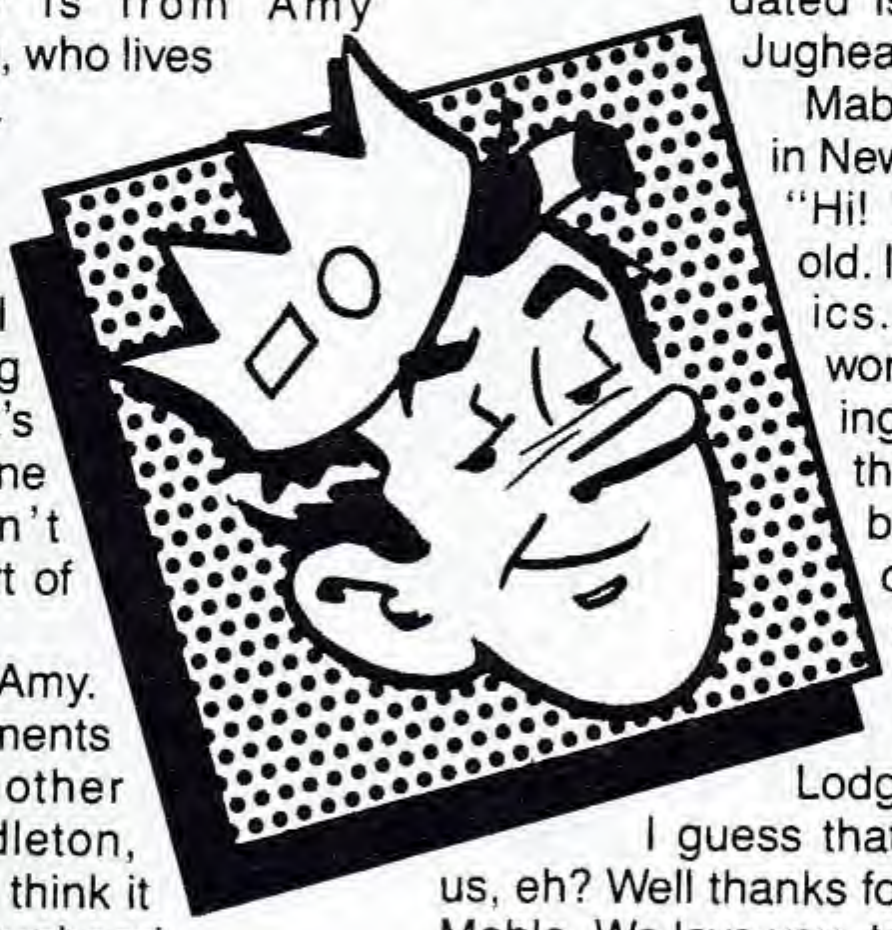


Editor's NOTEBOOK

Dear Archie Readers,

This month, I thought I'd take the opportunity to respond to some of the mail that I've been receiving (and I've been receiving a lot of mail).

The first letter is from Amy Blechschmid, age 10, who lives in Senora, California. She writes, "I have one teeny-weeny complaint to make. It's about Jughead. I don't like him getting girlfriends and stuff. It's nice to have at least one person who isn't interested in that sort of thing."



You're not alone, Amy. Here are some comments from a few of our other readers: Matt Pendleton, Ventura, California "I think it is an outrage that Jughead has started dating. If I were you I would have him break up with Debbie." Leroy Carson, Phoenix, Arizona "I have been reading Archie Comics for many years, and ever since Archie started, Jughead has been the non-dating type. I believe there are many out there that agree with me and want to see Jughead stay Jughead, not turn into a girl-crazed guy like Archie."

Lynn Lambert from San Diego, California, seems to have a different opinion. She says, "Today's Jughead is a *definite* improvement over yesterday's. He was interesting before, but his woman-hating kind of ruined it. Please don't ever go back to that, *please*."

The response to the "New" Jughead has been overwhelming. The publishers, the editorial staff and of course the writers and artists have all put their heads together and have come up with a solution. Look for it in the June dated issue (No. 18) of Jughead, on sale in April.

Mable Quey who lives in New York City writes, "Hi! I'm twelve years old. I love Archie Comics. They're great, wonderful, fun, exciting and interesting. I think they are the best. My favorite characters are Archie, Veronica, Betty, Moose, Reggie and Mr. Lodge."

I guess that means you like us, eh? Well thanks for the kind words, Mable. We love you, too.

Here's some trivia, gang. The song "Sugar, Sugar" sung by THE ARCHIES was one of the biggest single hits of the early 70's. It sold over 5 million records.

Next month I'll try to answer a few more letters and tell you about some up and coming new titles. Don't miss out. Till then...so long!

Write your letters to: Victor Gorelick, Editor, Archie Comic Publications, Inc., 325 Fayette Avenue, Mamaroneck, NY 10543

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OOH, IT'S FRED FLINTSTONE ;sigh;-- BOWLING LEGEND!
THAT'S ME! ;heh heh heh!;
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SURE! JUST WATCH!
ZIP!
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FRUIT-A-ROOTY!
READY...
...AIM...
SNAP!
...AN' LET 'ER--
--GO--!
SLIP!
--WHOAHH!
YEOW!
SPROING
THWUMP!
BARNEY-?! MY PEBBLES!!!
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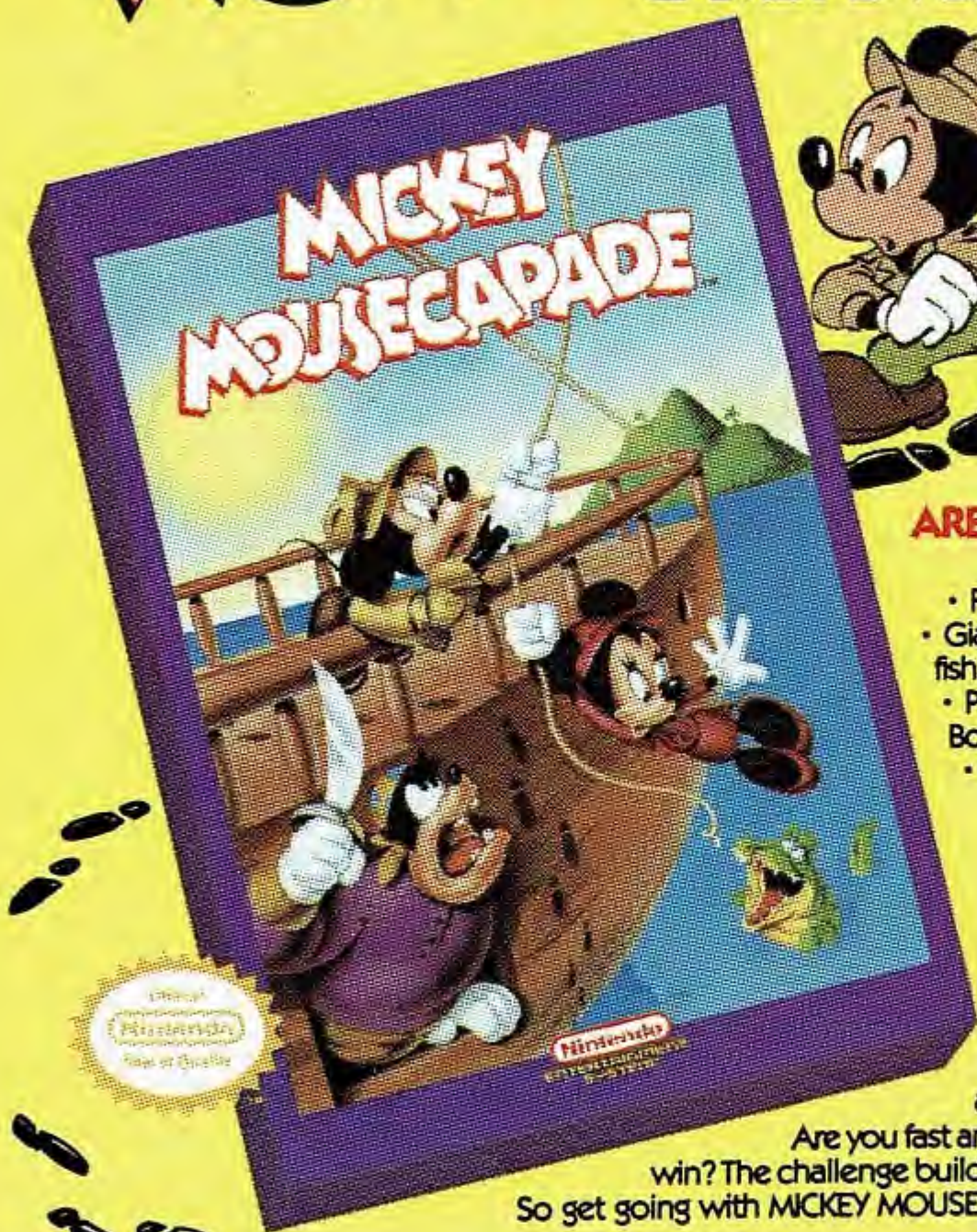

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